

NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER

3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

9216 NFES (FA240)

December 19, 2006

NATIONAL FIRE EQUIPMENT SYSTEM CACHE MEMORANDUM NO. 07-2

To: NFES National Incident Support Caches
From: Paul Naman, NFES Representative
Subject: Blue Fireline Pack Seam Defect (NFES 0678, 0674)

Some early production versions of the blue fireline pack (NFES 0678, 0674) are exhibiting seam failures along main vertical seams after a period of field use. Packs with production dates of October, 2005 and earlier were manufactured with a single stitch on the packs main compartment vertical seams rather than the two stitching seams required. All packs produced from November, 2005 and later were constructed with two stitching seams on the main pack compartment. A potential result of a seam failures is the loss of the packs contents from main compartment and/or loss of anchor points for the packs waist belt and suspension assembly (see exhibit 1).



Exhibit 1



All affected packs were manufactured by Paraclete Armor and Equipment Inc. (contract # GS-07F-P0003). The fireline pack's manufacturer and date of production can be located on the 6"x 4" tag sewn inside the packs main compartment.

Fireline packs have a twenty four (24) month warranty from date of manufacture. The first production models date from Jan/Feb 2005 so the warranty period will begin to expire soon for the earliest models. Owners of fireline packs should inspect their inventories of the item immediately and note any quantities needing repairs due to defective seam stitching. The manufacturer has agreed to repair the affected fireline packs under the existing warranty.

Owners of defective fireline packs should contact (preferred point of contact) Keefe Chow, GSA Administrative Contracting Officer at 415-522-2808 (keefe.chow@gsa.gov) or Anne Anderson, GSA National Customer Service Center at 816-823-3060, x66008, (annem.anderson@gsa.gov) who are coordinating the repair process. Pack owners should provide quantities of packs needing repairs and dates of manufacture. Pack owners will be responsible for shipping costs to the contractor's repair facility, with return shipping being provided by the manufacturer.

If you have questions or comments on this information please contact Bill Hicks, GSA Fire Program Coordinator at (817) 574-2533 or Dennis Davis, USFS Missoula Technology and Development Center at (406) 329-3929.

/s/ Paul E. Naman

cc:

State Fire Management Officers - BLM
Regional Directors Fire and Aviation Management - USFS
Technology Development Centers - San Dimas, Missoula
Agency Directors - NIFC
Logistics Center - NICC
William Hicks - GSA
Tory Henderson - USFS

